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The Bureau of Land Management Billings Field Office plans to begin fertility control on wild horse mares in the Pryor Mountains on September 29, 2005. The BLM will continue with this effort until all identified mares are treated with both primer and booster shots of the fertility control vaccine.

This year's fertility control program was delayed when the Cloud Foundation and the Colorado Wild Horse and Burro Coalition submitted an Appeal and Petition for Stay of the BLM's decision approving fertility control on the Pryor mares. The Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) has denied the Petition for Stay. The decision on the appeal is still pending with the IBLA.

The Humane Society of the United States had filed a friend of the court brief supporting the fertility control program.

According to the BLM decision, 20 mares aged 11 years and older would receive fertility control (Porcine Zona Pellucida or PZP) vaccine for the purposes of suppressing herd growth rates in order to manage for healthy horses on healthy rangelands. The fertility control program in the Pryors began in 2001 and has continued every year since then.

The decision record and environment assessment can be found on the internet at: [http://www.blm.gov/nhp/spotlight/state\\_info/mt/pryor.html](http://www.blm.gov/nhp/spotlight/state_info/mt/pryor.html) or by contacting the Billings Field Office at 406-896-5013.

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